

NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL
Letter of Support from AGJ

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PRESERVATION



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1999

Ms. Myrl Weinberg, CAE
President
National Health Council
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Weinberg:

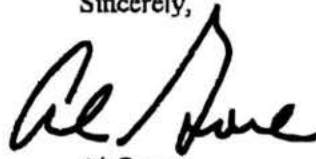
I am pleased to congratulate you and your colleagues at the National Health Council upon the release of your report, *Family Caregiving: Agenda for Action*. I commend your dedication to helping Americans meet the challenges of caring for a loved one with long-term care needs, and I appreciate the work you are doing to bring together experts in the field of caregiving to raise awareness about this complex and important issue. This report will help bring family caregiving to the forefront of our nation's health care agenda.

This Administration shares your commitment to recognizing and rewarding family caregiving. We have proposed a \$1,000 tax credit to help cover costs incurred by Americans of all ages with long-term care needs or by the family caregivers that support them. We have also proposed a National Family Caregiver Support Program, designed to provide caregivers with a much-needed break through home or center-based care as well as information, referrals and other essential services.

Our long-term care initiative also includes: educating Medicare beneficiaries about the program's shortcomings with respect to long-term care and helping them evaluate their options; having the Office of Personnel Management serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to federal employees; and enabling states to choose home and community-based care through Medicaid without a waiver. We believe that these initiatives are an important first step toward providing the support Americans with long-term care needs and those who care for them deserve, and we hope Congress will pass them this year.

Please be assured that you have my strongest support for the important work you are doing. Together, we can help families across the United States who struggle financially and emotionally to care for their loved ones.

Sincerely,



Al Gore

AG/kew



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
CORRESPONDENCE OFFICE

Phone: (202) 224-2424

To: Elizabeth

From: Kathy

Pages: 2

Date: 9/30/99

Time: 4:45 pm

Message:

National Health Council Letter

September 25, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR MARLA ROMASH

SUBJECT: National Dialogue on Cancer

This memorandum describes a new cancer organization -- the National Dialogue on Cancer -- that could favorably link George W. Bush to cancer -- an issue many voters care deeply about. The Dialogue is a potential front-page story that could break as soon as next weekend when the Dialogue holds its next meeting at the Bush compound in Kennebunkport, ME. The VP's staff knows about the Dialogue, and some are deeply concerned that it could detract from the VP's substantial record on cancer. I want to make sure you know about the Dialogue.

The National Dialogue on Cancer is an emerging super cancer organization initiated by the American Cancer Society in the summer of 1998. Its goal is to unite the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors in a forum dedicated to the eradication of cancer as a public health problem at the earliest possible time. President and Mrs. Bush co-chair the Dialogue; Senator Dianne Feinstein is the vice-chair. The Dialogue brings together for the first time more than 100 key leaders in the cancer field. It is a distinguished group that includes: Sam Donaldson, Rick Klausner (Director of the National Cancer Institute at NIH), Harold Freeman (Director of the President's Cancer Panel), Governors Tom Ridge and Tommy Thompson, Jack Valenti, Gordon Binder (CEO of Amgen), Paula Zahn, and many other equally prominent individuals. The Dialogue held its first meeting November 9 and 10, 1998, and its second meeting on May 22.

The Dialogue was originally scheduled to be unveiled at a Washington, DC press conference on March 12, 1999. The event, which would have included President and Mrs. Bush at the event and on morning talk shows, was canceled on March 10, after Senator Feinstein, Rick Klausner, and Jim Marks from CDC all had scheduling conflicts. The leaders of the Dialogue believe the Vice President's office had something to do with the scheduling conflicts, and have not yet tried to reschedule another public announcement. Senator Feinstein was promoted to vice-chair of the Dialogue following the aborted press conference. Her appointment was made to bring greater political balance to the Dialogue.

At the Dialogue meeting next week, its members will plan their agenda for the coming year including adopting a communication plan for the Dialogue.